(कुमारी शैलजा) : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

दक्षिण भारत हिन्दी प्रचार-सभा में दीक्षांत समारोह

5097. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री ने फरवरी/मार्च में दक्षिण भारत हिन्दी प्रचार सभा में दीक्षांत भाषण दिया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो दीक्षांत समारोह में कितने लोग उपस्थित थे और कितने लोग पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान दक्षिण भारत हिन्दी प्रचार सभा, द्वारा आयोजित की गई विभिन्न परीक्षाओं में उत्तीर्ण हुए थे;

(ग) क्या उस समारोह के अवसर पर सभा ने माननीय मंत्री महोदय के समक्ष हिन्दी के विकास हेतु विशेष सहायता दिए जाने की मांग रखी थी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और इस संबंध में केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (शिक्षा विभाग और संस्कृति विभाग) में उपमंत्री (कुमारी शैलजा) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां। वर्ष 1993 में सभा की परीक्षाओं में उत्तीर्ण 12700 उम्मीदवारों ने उक्त दीक्षान्त समारोह में व्यक्तिगत रूप से अपनी डिग्रियां प्राप्त कीं। 1991,1992 और 1993 के दौरान विभिन्न परीक्षाओं में उत्तीर्ण उम्मीदवारों की संख्या क्रमशः 15448, 25395 और 27266 है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

AGE OF ADMISSION OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

5098. **SHRI SURESH PACHOURI** : Will the Minister of **HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state :

(a) Whether experts have pointed that in terms of chronological age a child at the time of entry to pre-school should be between 2-4 years old;

(b) if so, whether at present in most of the cities in India children are coming to pre-school at the age of 2-1/2 years;

(c) whether the National Policy of Education, 1986, specifies the elementary school age ranging from 6-14 years but actual entry age of almost all the States barring some eastern States it is 5 plus years;

(d) whether experts have stressed that strict policy of age should be followed for entry in schools in future;

(e) if so, whether early age of pre-school effects the child in his development;

(f) if so, whether National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have taken up this issue; and

(g) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Some experts are of the opinion that in terms of chronological age a child at the time of entry to pre-school should be between 3-4 years old.

(b) It is true that in many cities children are being taken into pre-school at the early age of 2½ years.

(c) National Policy on Education recommends that the age for entry to elementary school should be six years. However, in many States entry age is still 5+.

(d) and (e) Many experts have opined that if a child comes into pre-school too early and is subjected to a formal curriculum, it is likely to have deterimental effects on the childs development. They have therefore suggested that for pre-school, entry age should be 3½ years and for class-I in primary school, it should be 6 years and above.

(f) and (g) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has conducted seminars in many cities